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Merry-Go-Round

Facts Overlooked by Warren Report Critics

Drew Pearson

Today's column is by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

THOUSANDS OF WORDS have been written casting doubts on the Warren report and the accuracy of its findings on President Kennedy's assassination. There are a lot of facts, however, which the doubt-casters have either ignored or glossed over. Here are some of them:

No. 1 doubt-caster is Mark Lane, attorney for Lee Harvey Oswald's mother. Lane has delivered hundreds of lectures and written a book taking issue with the findings of the Warren Commission.

What Lane neglects to point out is that while he was touring Europe expounding his views on the assassination, he was summoned back to Washington to testify before the Warren Commission. Its members wanted to take advantage of the facts he was broadcasting in Europe which might help them in their investigation.

Lane, however, refused.

He was so uncooperative that the Warren Commission considered citing him for contempt, which it had the power to do.

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ONE ISSUE IN the assassination which was pumped up as a big mystery was the whereabouts of the photographs and X-rays of the late President's body, and the clothes he wore on the fatal day. It was reported that these had been suppressed or destroyed in order to conceal evidence which might prove the Warren report false.

What actually happened was that during the commission's investigation, several promoters tried to secure copies of the photographs and other exhibits connected with the assassination, such as Oswald's gun, in order to establish a traveling museum to be shown at country fairs.

Since the commission believed that it was not in good taste to give a national tragedy the aspects of a sideshow, Chief Justice Earl Warren ordered all the photos and X-rays sent to the Justice Department, with instructions that they not be shown to anyone except law enforcement officers or other qualified officials.

At about that time, Jacqueline Kennedy made a request that she be given her husband's clothing. She did not state why she wanted it, and it was suspected she might destroy it in order to remove unhappy memories. However, the disappearance of any evidence might cast doubt on the commission's finding, so the president's clothing was also sent to the Justice Department.

The President's clothing, incidentally, clearly shows the fabric of his shirt in front is bent out, indicating that the bullet which passed through his body came from the back.

This is important, because some critics of the Warren Report claim that one shot fired at the President came from the front, not the rear, which, they claim, meant there was another assassin besides Oswald.

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THE WARREN COMMISSION did not suppress anything. Its members were mindful that future historians would be digging through the records for years to come, so commission members even put their work sheets in the final report — the only commission ever to do so.

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